## Maryland SESAC

SPECIAL EDUCATION STATE ADVISORY COMMMITTEE

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
200 W. Baltimore Street, 9th floor, Baltimore, MD 21201
(410) 767-7197

Kelly Meissner, Chair
Rhonda Creecy, Co-Chair

## Special Education State Advisory Committee General Meeting October 19, 2015

## **MINUTES**

**Present Absent** Kelly Meissner **Dawn Koplos** Valerie Ashton-Thomas **Carol Strootman Neal Lichter** Yvonne Hu Cotto Leanne Carmona Sarah Wayland Dori Flynn - by phone **Brian Fausel** Rachel London Rebecca Rider **Rhonda Creecy** Maura Taylor **April Edwards** Pamela Talley **Staff Present** Kathy Barazotto Carmen Brown

Martha Goodman
Kathy Kaufman Guests

Marjorie Guldan Pamela Talley – PG CO SECAC

Meeting began at 10:15am with Introductions of all members present and on the phone

Topic	Minutes from September
Discussion	New notes format, add Leanne to attendees,
Recommendations	Motion, seconded and vote by all members present to accept new format,
	approve with corrections, second and accepted.
Action	Put on website, Rachel will look for cheat sheet on Acronyms to share.
Follow-Up	
Topic	MLL Chat Space Updates
Discussion	Kelly provided a summary and example of the Chat space on MLL available, and
	members could all obtain closed access, with the ability to be notified every time it
	is updated.
Recommendations	
Action	Kelly and Carmen will share info on log-in and test the space.
Follow-Up	
Topic	Discussion with Marcella with Kelly to discuss SESAC
Discussion	Kelly has met with Marcella re: the charge of SESAC and how we can better
	support the work in DSE/EIS. Marcella is excited about the work of the SESAC and
	wants to support the work we are charged with doing. Marcella is helping to
	support increasing membership as well as agenda development, exchange, format,

	rebranding, etc.
Recommendations	rebranding, etc.
Action	Kelly will continue meeting with Marcella and bring back and follow-up needed to
	the SESAC.
Follow-Up	Consider rebranding, what that would look like, etc.
Topic	Transition
Discussion	Discussion and suggestion that all counties should work in the same/similar manner. This would be particularly important for families who live in counties other than in those where their children go to school, or if families need support. Eligibility and access are also considerations.  Points of discussion regarding Transition:  Many IEPs are focused on academic goals because the student is working toward a diploma, and therefore do not address transition or life skill building at all in the IEP.  How do we help everyone to understand and discuss the transition plan, regardless of diploma or certificate track?  When a student enters transition age (14), the focus should change and the IEP meeting should be directed to develop the transition plan first and then work with IEP team to focus on incorporating the transition goals into the IEP.  When is there time to add additional training for skill building, etc like travel training?  One way to build in skill building may be to encourage students to take additional time (like 5 or 6 yr cohort) in order to accomplish the requirements for graduation.  Brief discussion of Alternate Diploma with dissenting thoughts that this would be a lowering of expectations.  Parents sign out of the IFSP in order to get an IEP causing great anxiety for many families. There is a need for training for individuals attending the IEP mtg and their responsibilities.
	Discussion of the MASTER PLAN Task Force RE: birth-8 inclusive of IHE recommendations for dual degrees for early childhood ed teachers to receive gen and spec ed certification. Suggestion that there be training for IEP Chairs on the special education law.
Recommendations	Top Down – Bottom UP education and communication. Prompting Wizard for the on-line IEP? Questions that would need to be responded to: ie. Core skills required for transition success.  Require planning for transition through the on-line IEP.  Joint IEP Chair and Transition Coordinator Training.
Action	Look at Community of Practice Missouri and their planning process for engaging
ACTION	children and families in planning and discussing what a "good life" for that child will look like – NOVEMBER MTG.
Follow-Up	
-гоноw-ор	transition plan. Rachel will bring Council discussions back to SESAC – NOVEMBER MTG.
	Request to see the TA Bulletin and Transition Guide that are available.

Topic	Pamela Talley summary of work in PG Co SECAC
•	April Edwards – DHR – Needs of Foster Care and role of State
Discussion	Presentation on SESAC in PG CO - working for positive change and collaboration with school system. Messaging from Sped director is very positive. Ask Sped director to hand out SECAC flyer to parents in IEP mtgs, 75% parents attending SECAC mtgs, SPED always sends someone, Director has pledged o be at every mtg, BOE has good attendance, topics are scheduled, have a public comment period that is limited by person, navigation of school system, strategic planning mtg that included parents (for the first time), merging of spec and gen ed, evening Mtgs, offered child care, but only 1 parent used it. Large county, and need to diversify the locations of meetings to expand participation, post meetings on county webpage, have a poster that is prominently placed in every school in the county. Looking at developing subcommittees to do work outside of meeting time, and to support the chair, positive feedback from families and staff. Have advised both the Sped Dir and Board. Spend \$ printing/marketing, props, etc. Presentation providing a summary about what DHR does, mandates for children in foster care re: education, education support within Central office, MOU with DHR, MSDE for data sharing. DHR educational and health mandate report card for judges is now required. Waiver Demonstration Project for \$ to families at the front door to prevent entry in foster care and to prevent recidivism. Initiatives focused on transitioning age youth. Strengthening Families focus for foster families.
Recommendations	
Action	
Follow-Up	
Topic	SECAC Training
Discussion	Discussion about providing SECAC trainings. Perhaps using a combination of the State Education Advisory Panels (SEAP) and Parents' Place Training. Regional Meetings offering training and listening post.
Recommendations	
Action	Kelly to meet with Marcella re: agenda and plan
Follow-Up	<ul> <li>Discuss with Marcella - Should SESAC poll the counties Special Ed Director to see what their burning issues are and concerns, questions and suggestions about SECAC?</li> </ul>